

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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NSAE-00 EUR-12 EB-07 /063 W  
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R 301445Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO JCS WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3119

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GERMANY

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GERMANY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ALGIERS 3009

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, AG

SUBJECT: MU 75 - THE ALGERIAN FACTOR

REF: JCS WASHDC 3482, 2713432 AUG 75

1. WE PRESUME BACKGROUND RESEARCH AND SAGA RESEARCH TEAM VISIT TO SELECTED COUNTRIES IN JULY AND AUGUST HAVE IDENTIFIED MAJOR NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES LIKELY TO SURFACE IN 1977-78 TIME FRAME. WE HAVE TRIED HERE, THEREFORE, TO SET OUT FRAMEWORK OF GENERAL ALGERIAN RESPONSE AND TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF CONCERN.

2. GENERAL. ALGERIA'S LIMITED MILITARY, FINANCIAL AND OIL POWER WILL RESTRICT ITS MILITARY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT, BUT ITS THIRD WORLD LEADERSHIP POSITION AND ITS DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO SERVE AS A RADICAL CATALYST IN INTERNATIONAL FORA CAN GIVE IT POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC IMPORTANCE.

ALGERIA'S EXTREMIST POLITICAL ORIENTATION, INTERNATIONAL AMBITIONS, IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENT TO REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM AND RHETORICAL RECORD WILL ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY REQUIRE IT TO OPPOSE US ACTIONS IN MOST LOCAL CRISES WE CAN VISUALIZE,

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EVEN THOUGH SUCH ALGERIAN OPPOSITION MAY IN SOME CASES

CONFLICT WITH, AND BE MUTED BY, ALGERIA'S SPECIFIC NATIONAL INTERESTS.

3. US INTERESTS. US OBJECTIVES IN ALGERIA ARE PRIMARILY NEGATIVE: TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED ALGERIAN DENIAL OF TERRITORY TO COMMUNIST MILITARY ELEMENTS, TO FOCUS ALGERIAN ENERGIES AWAY FROM SUBVERSION OR HARASSMENT OF THEIR MORE MODERATE NEIGHBORS, TO CULTIVATE ALGERIAN TACIT TOLERANCE OF OUR MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY, AND EITHER TO UNDERCUT ALGERIA AS A THIRD WORLD LEADER OR TO MODERATE ITS VIEWS. WE SEEK ACCESS TO ALGERIAN HYDROCARBON RESOURCES AND MARKETS, BUT THESE WILL BE NEITHER VITAL NOR IRREPLACEABLE IN 1977/78 TIME FRAME.

4. AS ANY CRISIS DEVELOPS, US INTEREST WILL BE TO ATTEMPT PERSUADE ALGERIANS TO LIMIT THEIR OPPOSITION TO OUR ACTIONS TO TOKEN RHETORIC AND SYMBOLIC ACTIONS AND TO REFRAIN FROM ORGANIZING OPPOSITION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

5. SPECIFIC SITUATIONS. IN CRISES ENVISAGED, ALGERIANS LIKELY TO BE IN MIDDLE OF DISCUSSIONS BUT ON SIDELINES OF ACTION.

A. ALGERIA IS NOT A MAJOR OIL PRODUCER. WHILE IT LIKELY TO BE IN FOREFRONT OF THOSE PUBLICLY DEMANDING OIL PRICE INCREASES (ALTHOUGH ITS ROLE IN THIS RESPECT IN SEPTEMBER, 1975 OPEC MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN A MAJOR ONE) AND DEMANDING ABSOLUTE RESPECT FOR ANY OIL EMBARGO, PAST EVENTS SUGGEST ALGERIA NOT ABOVE PRIVATELY MANIPULATING PRICE OF ITS OWN OIL TO ENSURE SALES AND TOLERATING LEAKS IN ITS EMBARGO.

B. ALGERIANS HAVE LONG URGED EXCLUSION OF ALL FOREIGN, INCLUDING SOVIET, FLEETS FROM MEDITERRANEAN. WHILE ANY SOVIET LAND OR SEA INCURSION IN AREA WOULD BE OPPOSED, US COUNTERMEASURES COULD BE EXPECTED TO REAP PUBLIC DENUNCIATIONS, WHILE SOVIET ACTIONS LIKELY BE MORE OBLIQUELY OPPOSED THROUGH ARAB AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA.

C. WHILE INTERNAL SHIFTS TO MORE LEFTIST-ORIENTED  
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REGIMES IN NEIGHBORING TUNISIA AND MOROCCO WOULD PROBABLY BE HAILED HERE AS EVIDENCE OF TRIUMPH OF REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM ESPOUSED BY ALGERIANS, ALGERIA CURRENTLY ENJOYS RELATIVE SERENITY ON BORDERS AND WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF EMERGENCY OF QADHAFI-TYPE REGIMES IN NEIGHBORING STATES.

D. ALGERIANS GENUINELY AND DEEPLY COMMITTED TO

PALESTINIANS AND ARAB CAUSE. IN GENERALIZED HOSTILITIES THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO SEND BULK OF THEIR MILITARY RESOURCES (MIGS AND TANKS) TO MIDDLE EAST AS THEY DID IN 1973. AS NONCONFRONTATION STATE WITH LIMITED MILITARY RESOURCES, HOWEVER, THIS CONTRIBUTION DOULD AT BEST BE MARGINAL. THEY WOULD ALSO THROW FULL OVERT DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL WEIGHT BEHIND ARAB CAUSE.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 ALGIERS 3009

6. ALGERIA'S NATIONAL INTEREST: A MODERATING FACTOR. NEVERTHELESS, ALGERIA'S FAILURE SO FAR TO COMMIT ITSELF FULLY AGAINST SINAI II ACCORD SUGGESTS THAT ALGERIANS CAN MOVE WITH RESTRAINT IN SPECIFIC SITUATIONS, EVEN IN MIDDLE EAST. KEY FACTOR IN THIS RESTRAINT WOULD APPEAR TO BE THAT WHILE ALGERIA IS IDEOLOGICALLY OPPOSED TO WEST AND POLITICALLY COMMITTED TO ARAB CAUSE, IT NEEDS WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCING TO ACHIEVE ITS DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND IT NEEDS ACCESS TO WESTERN MARKETS FOR ITS OIL AND GAS.

ALGERIA'S PRIMARY GOAL IS TO INDUSTRIALIZE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO BECOME INDEPENDENT OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, TO MEET DEMANDS OF ITS EXPLODING POPULATION AND TO INCREASE ITS INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE. WESTERN TECHNOLOGY, FINANCING, AND AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES ARE ESSENTIAL IF ALGERIA IS TO ACHIEVE ITS GOAL. THUS, WHILE IN EVERY CASE

ALGERIA'S IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION WILL PUSH IT TOWARD  
KNEE-JERK ACTIVIST OPPOSITION TO US ACTIONS, ITS PRAGMATIC  
INTEREST WILL BE A COUNTERWEIGHT.

7. CONCLUSION. WE THUS BELIEVE THAT IN ANY CRISIS ALGERIA  
WILL DENOUNCE AND OPOSE OUR ACTIONS BUT WILL ATTEMPT TO  
AVOID DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH US WHICH MIGHT JEOPARDIZE  
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ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT IF FORCED TO THE WALL,

ALGERIA WILL REMAIN TRUE TO ITS IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENT AND  
WILL CHOOSE TOTAL OPPOSITION. IT WILL BE THE TASK OF  
MU 75 PARTICIPANTS TO DEVISE STEPS BY WHICH US CAN AVOID  
DRIVING ALGERIA TO THE WALL IN CRISIS SITUATIONS ENVISAGED.

AS WE ARE WORKING ON SAME PROBLEM IN CURRENT TIME FRAME,  
WE AWAIT RESULTS OF SIMULATION WITH INTEREST. IF POSSIBLE,  
I WOULD LIKE TO SEND MY DCM, STEPHEN LYNE,  
TO PARTICIPATE IN MU 75 SIMULATION OR AT LEAST TO ATTEND  
AS OBSERVER.PARKER

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